

### INDIA

India's immunisation drive has picked up pace in the past few weeks to avoid a third wave. On 17 August, the country doled out a record 8.81 million doses in 24 hours, the highest single-day jab since the beginning of the vaccination process in January. Since 16 January, India has administered more than 565 million doses. Some 440 million people have received the first dose and another 125 million or so have received both doses so far.

The surge in inoculations came alongside a sharp decline in daily new infections that fell to 25,166, the lowest since 16 March according to the statement released by the Health Ministry.

With the decrease in the number of daily reported cases and a ramped up vaccination drive, countries across the world have also started to relax travel rules for Indian travellers and travel to India. Sri Lanka has now removed the temporary ban placed on travel from India including transit. Austria has lifted quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated travellers from India and the Netherlands too has updated travel requirements for Indian travellers from August 14 as India has been removed from the list of Virus Variant Countries to the list of Very High-Risk Countries.

The United States has eased its travel advisory to India to the second-lowest level and according to the Centre of Disease Control, India and other South Asian nations are now being considered under 'moderate level of Covid-19'. UK has moved India to the Amber List of travel countries and it has eased the rules for travel to and from India. British Airways has announced doubling of flights from India and there would now be 20 direct flights from Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bangalore to London, Heathrow. Air India has also announced the running of two special flights between Kolkata and London to assist students travelling to the west.

All these announcements and ease on travel restrictions come as a welcome boost to the country's morale and we are hopeful that international tourism to India will also resume soon.

For detailed and latest updates on vaccination and number of cases, please [click here](#).

### NEPAL

The prohibitory orders issued by the authorities in Kathmandu Valley is extended until 24 August with restriction in the movement of all types of vehicles except those in emergency services after 8 pm. Officials are mandating rapid antigen testing at entry points to the Kathmandu Valley. The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) launched a nationwide mask campaign aimed at encouraging people to wear masks.

As on date 4.8 million people have received their first dose and 3.7 million people have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

International arrivals must provide either a negative PCR test or its equivalent obtained within 72 hours before departure or a certificate confirming completion of vaccination. However, air carriers may require passengers – regardless of vaccination status – to submit negative PCR test results for boarding.

On-arrival and electronic visa issuance remain suspended, except for pre-approved travelers, foreigners of Nepali origin and their relatives, and those officially affiliated with international development organizations and diplomatic missions. Additionally, foreign entrants must have a hotel booking for 7 days, a barcode from completing the requisite online form at the Covid -19 Crisis Management Center (CCMC) portal, and travel insurance. Fully vaccinated arrivals can serve their 10-day quarantine at their residence; travelers who have not been vaccinated can undergo quarantine at designated sites. Entry rules are subject to change at short notice.

Transit passengers traveling via Tribhuvan International Airport (KTM) in Kathmandu cannot obtain pre-departure testing in Nepal to proceed to their final destination. However, exemptions are in place for residents, diplomats, and approved passengers under bilateral "air bubble" arrangements.

For latest figures and detailed statistics, please [click here](#).

### SRI LANKA

The island's vaccination drive has been witnessing a steady improvement with over 36.6% of the adult population fully vaccinated, and 85.9% of the population having received at least a single dose. With more vaccines now being available, the Sri Lankan government has set a target to fully vaccinate the entire adult population by end of September 2021.

Sri Lanka is open for tourism for travellers from across the world. However, travellers from South American countries and South African countries (South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) will not be permitted to disembark in Sri Lanka until further notice.

Key points to note:

- No minimum number of days is required for stay
- No restrictive quarantine required
- Tourists must stay at one or more certified 'Safe & Secure' Level 1 hotel for up to 14 nights/15 days of their stay
- All facilities of the hotel would be made available to the guests
- Tourists can visit approved tourist sites under the safety of a bio-bubble
- Pay for PCR Tests (40 USD per PCR test depending on the number of days of the stay) when applying for visa online and for insurance (12 USD) with one month cover of 50,000 USD

Please visit <https://srilanka.travel/helloagain/documents/Health-protocol-Tourist-latest.pdf> for latest travel requirement and updated health protocol for fully vaccinated and not fully vaccinated travellers.

For latest statistics, Please [click here](#).

### BHUTAN

The Tourism Council of Bhutan has issued a clarification regarding the opening up of Bhutanese borders for international tourism. As of now, Bhutan is yet to open formally and the government will make an official announcement once the same is confirmed.

Until then, the Tourism Council will be facilitating entry of tourists on a case to case basis after fulfilling the stipulated COVID 19 requirements including mandatory 21-day quarantine.

In addition, persons wanting to visit Bhutan must also meet the following conditions:

- A negative RT PCR test 72 hours before starting the journey from country of origin
- Mandatory Covid-19 Insurance
- Bear all test costs (approx. USD 50 per test) and quarantine stay costs
- Entry only via air
- Guests must apply through a licensed tour operator
- Minimum package rates and associated exemptions applicable after the 21-day quarantine period
- Sustainable Development Fee during the quarantine period will be applicable as follows: USD 65/night/person for the first 8 nights, thereafter USD 32.50/night/person for 9th- 14th night. There will be NO FEE after the 15th night onwards
- Follow national Covid-19 protocols and tourism guidelines

Bhutan has recorded a 98 per cent recovery rate and 3 deaths as on date.

Please [click here](#) for the latest updates.

[Click here](#) to read more on our proposed post-Covid preparations.